

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 SIL-01 ICAE-00 LAB-04  
INR-10 /043 W

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R 131725Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7672  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANTHRO

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STATE ALSO FOR LA/MRSD (GEORGE PHILLIPS), GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP,  
RIO DE JANEIRO FOR MICHAEL HAMMER

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB ES  
SUBJ: AIFLD: MINLABOR'S LATEST POSITION ON REESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1540

SUMMARY: APRIL 6 CONVERSATION OF PAUL SOMOGYI, DIRECTOR-DESIG-  
NATE OF AIFLD/BRAZIL, WITH MINLABOR INDICATED THAT MINLABOR HAS  
CHANGED MANY OF HIS PREVIOUS POSITIONS ON AIFLD'S REENTRY INTO  
EL SALVADOR TO RENDER INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO UCS. MINLABOR TOLD  
SOMOGYI A DEFINITE GOES ANSWER WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN TWO TO FOUR  
WEEKS BUT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD BE NEGATIVE AS TO AIFLD'S  
FUTURE ASSISTANCE TO UCS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY NEGATIVE AS TO AIFLD'S  
REOPENING AN OFFICE TO RENDER FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO URBAN TRADE  
UNIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A TALK WITH AMBASSADOR, DCM AND LABOR OFFICER ON APRIL 7,  
PAUL SOMOGYI OF AIFLD REPORTED ON TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD  
WITH  
MINISTER OF LABOR COL. ROBERTO ESCOBAR GARCIA ON APRIL 6.

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SOMOGYI STATED THAT ESCOBAR HAD BROKEN A BONE IN ONE OF HIS FEET  
AND WAS INDEED TEMPORARILY CONFINED TO HIS HOME.

2. SOMOGYI SAID THAT AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH MINLABOR, HE  
WAS LEFT WITH AN IMPRESSION ON AIFLD'S REENTRY PROSPECTS AT  
VARIANCE WITH THE ONE HE HAD GATHERED FROM STUDYING THE TELEGRAMS  
AND MEMCONS ON THE HAMMER VISIT. FOR ONE THINGWVN MINLABOR STATED

TO HIM THAT HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO REJECTION TO AIFLD'S REENTRY IF THE OBJECT WAS TO RENDER AID TO URBAN TRADE UNIONS. MINLABOR SAID THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF AIFLD'S REENTRY TO RENDER SUCH ASSISTANCE HAD BECOME COMPLICATED BY AIFLD'S PRESENTATION AT THE SAME TIME OF A PROGRAM OF INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO THE UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS).

3. MINLABOR STATED TO SOMOGYI THAT THE GOES HAD INSTITUTED ITS OWN PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE UCS AND WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE THEM WORK WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF ANY ASSISTANCE FROM AIFLD. SOMOGYI EMPHASIZED THAT THE MINLABOR DID NOT EXCZEDE ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER U.S. SOURCES SUCH AS AID AND THE PEACE CORPS. MINLABOR SAID A DECISION ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF AIFLD'S REENTRY IN ORDER TO RENDER POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE UCS WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE GOES IN TWO TO FOUR WEEKS AND LEFT SOMOGYI WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE A NEGATIVE ONE. MINLABOR STRESSED THAT SUCH AN ANSWER WOULD NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF AIFLD'S REESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE TO HELP URBAN TRADE UNIONS.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF SUCH AN OFFICE TO THE EMBASSY, MINLABOR SAID THERE COULD BE A VALID DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS TO WHETHER AN OFFICE WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE EMBASSY OR ONE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT FROM IT WOULD BE BETTER. SOMOGYI SAID THAT MINLABOR DID NOT EXPRESS A PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR ONE APPROACH OR THE OTHER.

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5. SOMOGYI ALSO REPORTED ON A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD EARLIER THAT DAY WITH PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT ROGELIO CHAVEZ. CHAVEZ, DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CONVERSATION, ALLUDED TO AIFLD'S PROPOSAL TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO THE UCS, BUT WITHOUT ANY OF HIS EARLIER ENTHUSIASM. HE DID EMPHASIZE TO SOMOGYI HIS PREFERENCE FOR SEEING ANY AIFLD OFFICE THAT MIGHT BE REESTABLISHED IN EL SALVADOR HAVE CLOSE TIES TO THE EMBASSY.

6. SOMOGYI SAID THAT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TELEGRAMS AND MEMCONS HE HAD READ ON THE HAMMER VISIT, THESE CONVERSATIONS LEFT HIM WITH THE IMPRESSION OF A GOVERNMENT NOT FULLY ABLE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE QUESTION OF AIFLD'S REENTRY AND IN A QUANDARY AS TO WHAT ANSWER TO GIVE THE AIFLD PROPOSALS. HE COMMENTED THAT DESPITE MINLABOR'S ASSURANCES THAT A DEFINITE RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN TWO TO FOUR WEEKS, HE WAS NOT OVERLY CONFIDENT THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE.

7. COMMENT: MINLABOR'S CONVERSATION WITH SOMOGYI CONTAINED THE FIRST NEGATIVE REACTION BY A GOES OFFICIAL TO AIFLD'S PROPOSED PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO UCS. THE EPISODE INDICATES THAT, IF THESE PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WERE SINCERE, MINLABOR MAY HAVE RUN

INTO SOME REAL OPPOSITION FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF GOES COMMISSION  
ON UCS. ONE POSSIBLE OPPONENT OF ANY FUTURE INCREASE IN AIFLD  
ASSISTANCE TO THE UCS MAY BE GEN. JOSE NAPOLEON AGREDA, PRIVATE  
SECRETARY TO GENERAL ROMERO, WHO, ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS  
REPORTS, HAD APPARENTLY SHOWN LITTLE OR NO ENTHUSIASM FOR SUCH  
FURTHER AIFLD ASSISTANCE. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, THIS APPARENT  
CHANGE IN GOES ATTITUDE, ONE REFLECTED IN CHAVEZ' AS WELL AS  
MINLABOR'S CONVERSATION WITH SOMOGYI, MAY BE DUE TO AN INCREASE  
IN GOES SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE WHOLE CAMPESINO QUESTION AS A  
RESULT OF THE HOLY WEEK OCCURRENCES AROUND SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN.  
WHETHER THIS CHANGE WILL BE A TEMPORARY OR INDEFINITE ONE IS  
HARD TO ESTIMATE AT THIS POINT AS MUCH WILL DEPEND ON FURTHER  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

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## Message Attributes

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